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THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board discusses expansion of book restrictions

Designs presented for renovations to Katy High, Cimarron Elementary and Nottingham Country Elementary

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy Independent School District's board of trustees met on Monday, August 19 for a work-study meeting in the boardroom at

6301 S. Stadium Drive in Katy. Fourteen speakers signed up to speak during public comments but only 11 of those spoke – all on one single agenda item – potential revisions to “EFB local,” a local board policy which concerns library materials.

The proposed revision to the policy is the insertion of this text: “No materials in elementary and junior high libraries shall contain material adopting, promoting or supporting gender fluidity as defined in Local Policy FA. Material in any high school library collection that adopts, supports or promotes gender fluidity requires parental

opt-in for student access.” A second new section of the policy – dealing with on-campus book fairs – was drafted as follows: “All vendors selected by the District shall adhere to the District's library guidelines and Board Policy. This includes vendors and fundraisers selected for book fairs or the distribution of literature.”

The 11 speakers were almost evenly divided in favor of and against the proposed change, with six opposed and five in favor. LGBTQ+ activist and Katy native Cameron Samuels, who has organized nationally recognized efforts against book banning,

was present at the meeting but did not speak during public comments.

The board discussed the issue as the last agenda item of the evening, but the matter was a discussion item only and was not voted on in this meeting. Trustee Dawn Champagne asked why the policy was needed, stating that the matter was already covered under board policy FA local and that an additional revision would be redundant. Board president Victor Perez

See **KISD**, page A3

Briones holds ‘virtual listening tour’ session for Precinct 4

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones and her staff conducted a “virtual listening tour” session via a Zoom call for residents of the precinct on August 15. Briones held 12 in-person listening sessions throughout the precinct last year, including two at the Katy campus of Houston Community College, 22910 Colonial Parkway. She will hold four in-person sessions in 2024, with the next on September 14 in Tomball, and one additional virtual session.

Briones reiterated her department's priorities as “good government,” infrastructure, education and opportunities, public health and justice and safety. In the area of justice and safety, one of Briones' policy advisers provided a summary of the “Advancing Justice” package recently presented at commissioners court. The package will upgrade outdated technology in the courtrooms – some of which is more than ten years old -- and invest in critical courtroom needs and is designed to improve court appearance rates through expanding texts and other reminders to defendants as well as

See **TOUR**, page A3

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FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND NELSON JUNIOR HIGH OPEN



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Freeman High School, which opened at 7800 Katy Hockley Rd. in Katy on August 14, is the tenth high school in Katy ISD and will serve the burgeoning population of the northwest quadrant of the district, relieving enrollment pressures on Paetow High School and Katy High School. The school is named for the Freeman family, deeply ingrained in Katy's history, who have been prominent in civic leadership, with members serving as mayor, city council members, and contributing to the volunteer fire department and school board. Beyond civic engagement, the Freeman's have a longstanding connection to agriculture and education, dating back to the late 19th century. The school's mascot will be the Golden Eagles. Freeman's principal is Gina Cobb.



Nelson Junior High School – the 18th and latest Katy ISD middle school – is also named for early Katy settlers. The Nelson family history spans across five generations in the Katy area, with family members having graduated from Katy ISD, served on the Board of Trustees, and been deeply involved in various district programs such as FFA. The Nelson's connection to the land that Nelson Junior High is built on is unique, since the family purchased the land generations ago from a beloved Katy ISD schoolteacher. Kara Morgan is the principal for the school, whose mascot is the Hawks. The campus is located at 25747 Longenbaugh Road in Katy, adjacent to Freeman High School and Youngblood Elementary.

Boggio, Merrell named Stan Stanley Award winners; Patsy Stanley also honored

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy Area Economic Development Council announced Dan Boggio and Leonard Merrell as the winners of this year's Stan Stanley Awards at its August 20 General Assembly meeting held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 16435 Katy Freeway in Houston.

Both men have been pillars of the Katy area, contributing immensely to the success and growth of the community over the years, said a spokesperson for the organization.

Boggio, Executive Chairman of PBK, co-founded the architectural firm to provide innovative design solutions for educational facilities. Under his leadership, PBK has grown into one of the largest and most awarded multi-discipline design firms. He is also well-known for his work in the local community, including serving as a Katy Area EDC Board of Governors member for many years.

Merrell is a longtime educator who served as Katy ISD Superintendent from 1995 to 2007. When he arrived in Katy, the district had 24,000 students, and after his twelve years of service Katy ISD had grown to over 51,000 students. During his tenure, he oversaw tremendous growth while



Patsy Stanley



DAN BOGGIO



LEONARD MERRELL

maintaining Katy ISD's status as one of the premier public-school districts in Texas. Today, Katy ISD is recognized as one of the top districts in the state and is a big reason families choose to call the Katy area home.

The Stanley Awards were created to recognize individuals that have made contributions in leadership and economic development. Selections were made by a committee of Katy area leaders. Award winners were selected based on criteria including but not limited to, years of service, leadership skills

See **STANLEY**, page A3

Little Texas to perform at Rice Harvest Festival

FROM STAFF REPORTS

“God Blessed Texas!” the City of Katy Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page exclaimed on August 5 in announcing that the band Little Texas will perform at the Rice Harvest Festival coming up in October.

“We're beyond excited to welcome Little Texas to the main stage at this year's Katy Rice Harvest Festival,” the post said. “Their performance is going to be unforgettable, and we can't wait!”

Little Texas will be headlining the main stage on Saturday, October 12 at 8 p.m. Known for their multi-Grammy nominations and numerous ACM, CMA, and CMT Awards, the band has three consecutive number one singles and a dozen “Top 10” hits, including the iconic “God Blessed Texas.”

See **FESTIVAL**, page A3

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Katy Home Improvement Expo offers free admission Sept. 7-8

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

RJC Productions, producers of the popular Spring Katy Home & Garden Show, announced on August 6 an addition to its annual line-up—the new Katy Home Improvement Expo, happening September 7-8 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. The expo, organized by the same team which has delivered 19 years of home and garden expertise, promises an exciting fall experience for homeowners and DIY enthusiasts alike. The event is free and open to the public.

From kitchen and bathroom remodels to outdoor living spaces, curated exhibitors bring the tools and inspiration to transform your house into the home of your dreams. Come for a weekend of exclusive deals, hands-on demonstrations, and insightful seminars to elevate every corner of your home.

Explore cutting-edge trends in home improvement, from smart technologies to sustainable materials. Find expert advice under one roof and chat with industry professionals to get personalized advice on remodeling, decorating, and home maintenance.

"We're thrilled to bring this new show -- the Katy Home Improvement Expo -- to our community with free admission just in time for fall and holiday home remodeling," said Robyn Cade, President of RJC Productions and founder of the Spring Katy Home & Garden Show. "This event is the perfect timing for homeowners and DIY enthusiasts to discover the latest trends, products, and services in home improvement. Our goal is to inspire and equip attendees with the knowledge and resources they need to transform their living spaces. We look forward to a successful event that showcases the best of what the home improvement industry has to offer."

A slate of special guest speakers



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY HOME IMPROVEMENT EXPO

The latest trends in home improvement await at the new Katy Home Improvement Expo plus special guests like Charley Fisher (upper right) with Urban Garden Plants and Andrea Bohn (lower right) doing a gut health workshop.

covering a broad range of wellness, gardening, and inspiration will be on hand during the weekend including Charley Fisher from Urban Garden Plants, who will help homeowners get cranking on fall garden plans with two free workshops:

- Just add water: A Fall Garden Starter Kit including a starter kit complete with seedlings, plants and fall plan.
- The Beginner's Guide to Fall Container Plants. Both workshops are free and held each day, but space is limited so register at UrbanGardenPlants.com/event-list.

The Posh Plank serves up a slate of ideas on fall and holiday grazing boards at Charcuterie BOARDing School. And a bread-tastic Sourdough & Gut Health Workshop will be presented by health and wellness expert and enthusiast Andrea Bohn from Juice Plus.

Get everything you need to make bread at the show and bake at home including a mixing bowl, starter, a dutch whisk, tea towel, mini spatula, and mason jar plus a 103-year-old sourdough dehydrated mother to keep the process going. Register online at ticketleap.events/tickets/san-antonio-juice-plus/sourdough-workshop-at-the-katy-home-improvement-expo.

katy-home-improvement-expo.

The bespoke woodworking husband and wife team Kellie and Jason Sartain, owners of Sartain's Awesome Shoppe in Bellville, will entertain and educate with their workshop "How to survive...Renovating a house with a spouse!" The Sartain's current project is the complete renovation of a vintage farmhouse for their toughest client yet...themselves. Hear about everything from unexpected structural surprises to lively discussions about design choices all while raising six kids — expect plenty of humor. Workshops will be held at noon on Saturday, September 7 and 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 8.

Bring the whole family. There is plenty for the younger set to explore like the feature area Tinker Town Kid's Zone on Level 2 and the Youth Entrepreneur Market which gives students ages 6 - 17 the chance to market their own youth business featuring a wide array of products designed, marketed, and run by young people in the community.

Want to spruce up your home? Enter to win a \$250 Show Shopping Spree. Visit katyhomeimprovementexpo.com for additional details.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fort Bend County district clerk scheduled special passport fair on August 24

Beverley McGrew Walker, Fort Bend County District Clerk, is hosting a special Passport Fair BY APPOINTMENT ONLY as a community service and in an effort to make it easier and more convenient to apply for a U.S. passport. The event will take place Saturday, August 24 at the Fort Bend County - Justice Center at 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle in Richmond from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. A limited number of appointments are being offered. For an appointment, visit nqa3.nemoqappointment.com/Booking/Booking/Index/ft974dgu63. (Limited Walk-ins will be accepted at this passport fair until 11 a.m.). Please view the office's passport brochure to obtain information on the cost and requirements. Note: *All applicants must appear in person (including minors). Minors under the age of 16 must appear with both parents. If one parent is not available, a DS-3053 form or a notarized authorization letter from the absent parent and a copy of his/her identification (front and back) is required.

Friends of Cinco Ranch Branch Library host fall book sale on September 7

The Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library will host a fall book sale on Saturday, September 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd in Katy. People who love books, people who love bargains, and people who need to get rid of some spare change will find a lot in common at the book sale, where they will discover adult and children's books, all at prices that are hard to beat. Most items are available for \$1.00 or less. Cash or checks are accepted. Items to choose from include new releases, fiction, nonfiction, children's

books, and classics, as well as DVDs and CDs.

Donations of gently used books (fiction and nonfiction adult, youth, and children's hardback and paperback books that are clean and not torn) are always welcome and may be taken to the library throughout the year during regular business hours. Textbooks are also accepted. Items that cannot be accepted include cassettes, VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, encyclopedias, medical/legal/computer books older than 2019, or books that are damp, moldy, dirty, or insect ridden. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), or call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library (281-395-1311).

Katy Bengal Brigade brings back the 'Heart of Katy' market on September 7-8

This fall favorite – a craft fair put on by the Katy Bengal Brigade and Cheerleaders – returns to Katy High School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 7 and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on September 8. Over 100 vendors will display their wares including clothing, food, treats, home décor and much more throughout the high school building at 6331 Highway Blvd. in Katy. Lunch will be offered at the concession stand. For vendor information, please email heartofkatycraftshow@gmail.com

The Encounter Church to offer live music and games at its first annual 'Community Day' on September 14

Bring the family to the Mark Chapman YMCA at 1350 Main Street in Katy for the Encounter Church's first annual "Community Day." The free event will feature live music, games, bingo and a water slide, as well as great food. For more information, please call 832-795-6427.

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Osita translates to "Little Bear" and this cub is looking for a new family to take care of her. If your heart is in need of some paw prints, come visit this adoptable girl at 3830 Greenhouse Rd from 12 - 4 p.m.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Plant of the mint family
- Hand tool
- Made of the color of gold
- A volume of several novels
- Type of degree
- Good job!
- Seventh tone in major scale
- Fevers
- One's mother
- Fertile desert spots
- Large integers
- Plate for Eucharist
- Tennis matches have them
- Peyton's little brother
- Monetary unit of N. Korea
- Head movement
- Twelve
- Renaissance musical instrument
- Behavior showing high moral standards
- Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Notes to be sung
- Women's garment
- Coarsely ground corn
- One point south of due east
- A way to deplete
- Rough, prickly covering of a seed
- LA hoopster, but not a Laker
- Hindquarters
- Franz van __, German diplomat

CLUES DOWN

- Short stick used as a weapon
- An alternative
- Laws
- Sense organs
- One from Utah
- Mariner
- People in charge of cattle
- Health insurance organization
- Ornamental box
- Forest-dwelling deer
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Atomic #71
- Become less intense
- Cowards
- Body ornament (slang)
- Applicable to all cases
- Multiplied by 6
- Afghanistan monetary unit
- Calendar month
- Cena and Lennon are two

CLUES ACROSS

- Liquid body substances
- Rhythmic patterns
- A beaver might build one
- Police officer's tool
- Indicates who you are
- Pinwheel
- Exist
- Ornamental molding
- Closes again
- Verses
- Come into view

CLUES DOWN

- Monetary unit of Serbia
- First time on the market
- Georgia rockers
- Free from contamination
- Coastal region of Canada
- Clothing retailer
- Rises and sets
- Fathers
- Stain with mud
- Suitable for crops

CLUES ACROSS

- Feels concern for
- Orange-brown
- Buddy
- Late sportscaster Craig
- Used to align parts
- Wake up
- Solid water
- Semiprecious stone
- Atomic #45
- Top lawyer

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

					7	9		
						8		
			5	9				
	2						6	
							8	
						7		
6		1		4	8			3
		8	9	3		5		
		4						
		5	2			3		1

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

TOUR

from page A1

using the Community Assistance Referral Program. Case management will be streamlined through optimizing case management systems. The “Advancing Justice” plan will continue to reduce the court backlog through expansion of the court staff and associate judge program. Mental health services are also included in the plan.

In the area of “good government,” Briones noted that the precinct’s website is now available in 12 languages. She provided an update for “listening tours” for 2024 and announced that public town halls on the county budget, first done last year would continue this year with additional sessions planned in August. The county will vote on the budget on September 10 prior to the start of the county’s fiscal year on October 1.

Projects for health include a seven-point plan to save and strengthen HART (Holistic Assistance Response Team), a program that frees up time for law enforcement officers. Briones has championed the needs of nursing mothers, establishing three lactation pods in the county courthouse and updating Harris County policies for nursing employees. Through ACCESS Harris, the precinct has worked on programs for violence

prevention, Black maternal health, Latino chronic disease, and a diabetes prevention program.

On education and economic opportunities, Briones spoke of the improvement in the awarding of Harris County contracts to M/WBES from under nine per cent to over 27 percent currently, noting that there were educational programs underway to educate small businesses on how to do business with the county. She also described the precinct's \$10.9 million program for apprenticeships, a \$6.2 million program focusing on domestic violence and a \$4.2 million national partnership for naturalization services in Harris County.

Briones said that she had doubled the size of the precinct's infrastructure team, and that the team has over 100 projects currently underway. Infrastructure projects in the Katy area included the East Katy Mobility project and "Sidewalks 4 Precinct 4," a \$20 million initiative which will build 50 miles of sidewalk, including some in the Mayde Creek area. Briones also announced that the "Places 4 People" project had partnered with other area entities such as cities, school districts and MUDs, to launch \$170 million for 32 projects in its first year, with \$88 million

coming from the county and \$82 million contributed by partner organizations. On September 14, the final workshop for the "All in 4 East Katy Community Plan" will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Steve Radack Community Center at 18650 Clav Road in Houston.

Storm recovery efforts were also detailed. Following Hurricane Beryl, the precinct opened most community centers to serve as cooling centers; two centers also served as distribution centers, providing food, water and ice to over 6,100 residents. Road and bridge crews cleared over 25,000 cubic yards of debris, more than 1,840 truckloads. The precinct responded to over 3,000 service requests from area residents.

In the “question and answer” portion of the meeting, the first questions were for the FEMA representative regarding specialized equipment for the disabled, the FEMA application process and the filing of false claims. Other questions concerned the free classes offered at the precinct’s community centers, what the precinct is doing for residents of the precinct who live in the City of Houston rather than in the unincorporated areas, and the priorities for renovating county parks.

KISD

from page A1

said the revision to the policy was needed since FA local only deals with classroom instructional materials while EFB local deals specifically with library materials. Both Champagne and board member Rebecca Fox questioned Perez about the release of the board agenda item on social media over the weekend by Perez' wife, Karen. Perez said that the matter was a misunderstanding and that he thought that the agenda had been made public on Friday. Board members discussed how books are removed from KISD libraries and how the proposed new policy would be enforced with vendors and other procedural issues. Fox asked, "Are we done with this yet?" and said that she has heard lots of feedback on the book issue and that it is dividing the community, calling it "a hornet's nest, it's political" and "it's making people angry on both sides." Perez disagreed that it was a political matter. Fox called for the board to focus on academics and to include academic programs and updates as part of each board meeting agenda, suggesting that the first program cover the Miller Career Center.

The board also heard from KISD CFO Chris Smith on the proposed tax rate and the budget for the coming 2024-2025 school year. Smith said that the tax rate would hold steady at \$0.7271 cents for general/M&O and \$0.39 for I&S (interest and sinking). Smith also said that planning for the next budget cycle would begin as early as October and would include closely monitoring all expenditures; planning for growth in staffing and operations; and the opening of two new campuses (elementary schools 47 and 48). Smith said that while the State legislature will be going into session in January, that would not bring budgetary relief to the district since any changes in state funding would likely not be approved until May and would not take effect before July. "We have to plan under

current law," he said.

Lisa Kassman, KISD executive director of facilities, planning, and construction, together with representatives from VLK Architects, presented design plans for the renovations planned at Katy High School, 6331 Highway Blvd. in Katy, for the band and orchestra building and the vocational hall. The band building was originally built in 1952 and “it’s time,” said the VLK representative. Improvements to the building will include the addition of a loading dock, an exterior restroom for the convenience of tennis athletes who practice nearby, improved instrument storage, new large and small practice rooms and a new mud room. A new display case will hold trophies and historical artifacts. A new 64-space parking lot will accommodate parking spaces removed during construction. Completion date for the project is December 2025.

The V-hall, which houses engineering, architecture, digital art, and medical prep classes, will increase from 12 to 16 classrooms and will have an improved maker space and a suite of computer labs. It is slated for completion in July 2025.

Cimarron Elementary at 1100 S. Peek in Katy and Nottingham Elementary at 20500 Kingsland Blvd. in Katy will be renovated to include improved security measures at the front entrances, lobbies and administrative offices and will include public restrooms accessible from the lobby. The Nottingham Country Elementary project will also include remodeling of the school's "open concept" library, installing glass walls in order to provide greater security with the ability to lock down the area if necessary, and to reduce noise levels in the area. The projects are scheduled for completion in July 2025.

The next meeting of the board – a regular board meeting – will be August 26.

FESTIVAL

from page A1

The Rice Harvest Festival, an annual event put on by the City of Katy and the Rotary Club of Katy, will take place October 12-13 in the historic downtown square at Avenue C and Second Street in old Katy. In addition to music on three stages, the event will also feature a carnival, a kids/teens zone, unique vendors, and new attractions as well as beer and food. Free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, on both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and children under 12 get in free. All proceeds from the event will benefit the community, according to the festival website.

For more information go to kathyharvestfestival.com.

STANLEY

from page A1

demonstrated, special achievements, and qualities Stan Stanley so greatly exhibited such as being faithful, conscientious, unselfish and committed to the Katy area community.

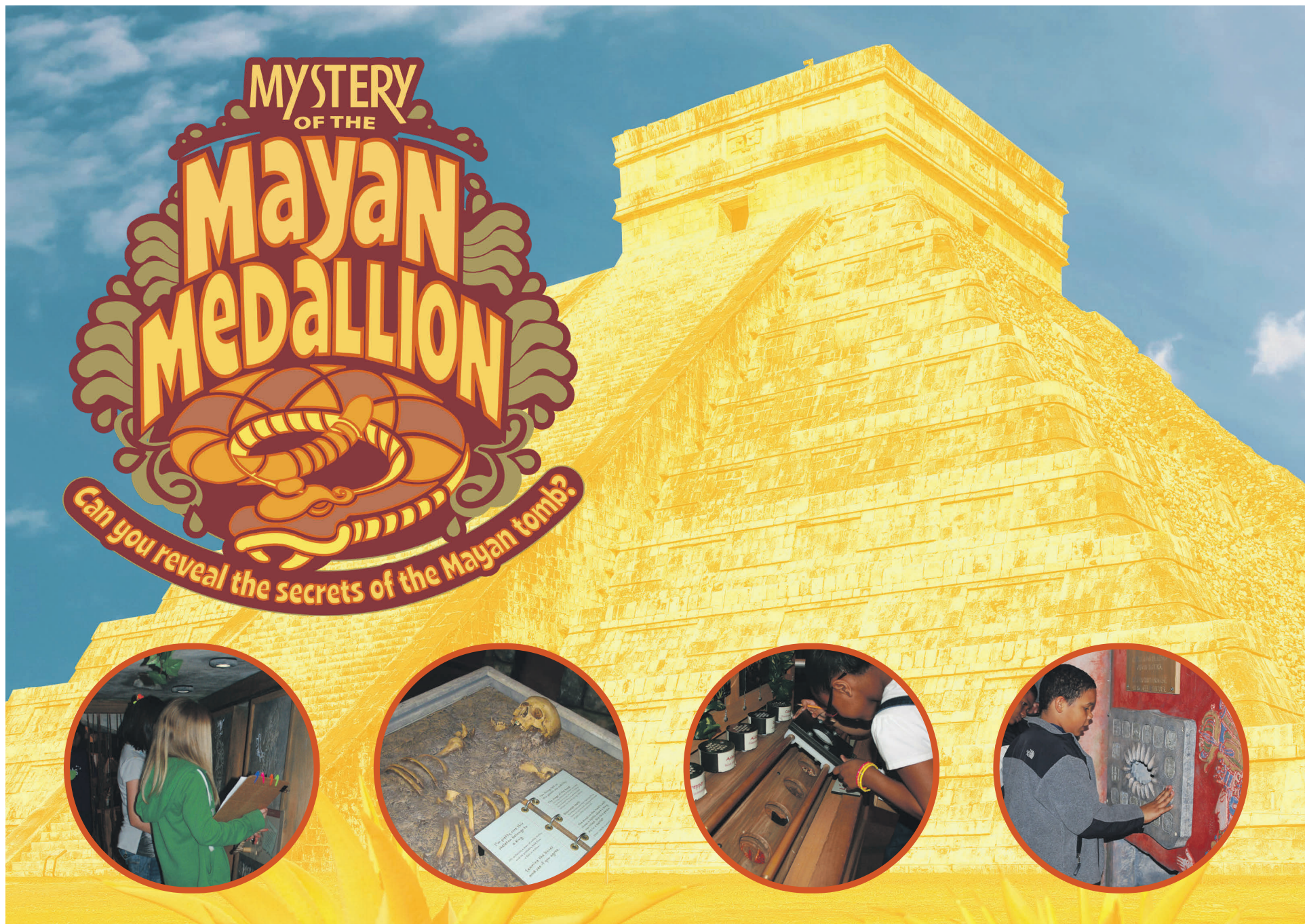
"It is our honor to recognize the exceptional contributions of Dan and Dr. Merrell," said Katy Area EDC President/CEO Angie Thomason. "Both men exemplify a passion for serving the Katy area much like Stan."

Along with Dan and Merrell, Stan Stanley's wife, Patsy, was recognized with an honorary Stan Stanley Award. Patsy dedicated 31 years of her life to public education, impacting

countless students. In years past, she was an active member of the Katy area community who was passionate about supporting all things children, especially at Stanley Elementary (SSE), named for her and her devoted husband of 33 years. The campus is located at 26633 Cinco Terrace Drive in Katy.

"Patsy was an integral part of the community just as Stan was," said Thomason. "It was our absolute privilege to recognize Patsy with the award named for her husband."

For more information on
Katy Area EDC, please contact
Angie Thomason, [athomason@
katyedc.org](mailto:athomason@katyedc.org) or visit katyedc.org.



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Sugar Land

Follow clues to locate the precious artifact!

In this immersive exhibit, visitors are transported to Palenque, Mexico, where an archaeological team has mysteriously disappeared from a dig site while investigating rumors of a priceless jade medallion. They will follow the clues the team left behind to locate the precious medallion while avoiding the dangers lurking in the ruins.

For tickets, visit sugarland.hmns.org or call 713-639-4629

Mystery of the Mayan Medallion is an exhibit by the Museum of Discovery, Little Rock, Arkansas

Story Peddler to host local author for book signing event on Aug. 29

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Story Peddler bookstore in Bellville is hosting an author event on Thursday, August 29 at 6 p.m. Bellville native and author Brian Porter will read from his debut novel, "Dreams of Arcadia."

"Dreams of Arcadia" is a touching portrait of an American family. In the story, veterinarian Nate Holub takes a job in his father's Texas hometown, wondering if a city boy has what it takes to be a country vet. As he struggles to adapt, Nate reconnects with his family and discovers that his father's accidental death thirty years earlier was much more complicated than he realized. BookLife named the novel an Editor's Pick, calling it "a well-rounded story that will resonate with lovers of family dramas and thoughtful mysteries."

"Our vision is for The Story Peddler to be a haven for bibliophiles, aspiring writers and seasoned authors," said the bookstore's program manager, Kris Graham, in an email to the Katy Times. "We strive to make the bookstore a welcoming space for everyone."

The store is located at 538 W. Main St. in Bellville. For more information, please call 979-530-6203 or email Kris Graham at storypeddlerbooks@gmail.com.



Rotary's annual Katy Triathlon set for Labor Day weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the 31st year, the Rotary Club of Katy will stage the Katy Triathlon, the oldest triathlon in the Houston area, race co-chairman Paul Kurt told the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce at the organization's breakfast on August 16.

The event, which raises funds for need- and character-based scholarships for students of the Katy Independent School District, will be held Sunday, September 1, starting at 7 a.m. at 2100 Cane Island Parkway in Katy.

The race features three competitions:

- Triathlon: 500-meter open water swim / 13-mile bike / three-mile run
- Duathlon: two-mile run / 13-mile bike/three-mile run
- Aquabike: 500-meter open water swim / 13-mile bike

Divisions are:

- Individual (Men's and Women's age groups). 12-14 (must be 12 years or older to participate); 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-74, 75-79, 80+
- Clydesdale Division (Men's heavyweight division). Must weigh 220+ pounds to be eligible.
- Athena Division (Women's heavyweight division). Must weigh 165+ pounds to be eligible. Triathlon Relays
 - 3 person all male; 3 person all female; 3 person mixed; 2 person (one person completes two events)

Packet pickup is set for Friday, August 30 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston West-Katy at 16435 Katy Freeway in Houston.

Kurt said that local student Nico Reyes, who last year at 11 years old became the first child in the world with Down Syndrome to complete a triathlon in the sprint category, would be returning for this year's race. In 2023 Nico set the world record as recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for that achievement.

Kurt also said that volunteers are still needed to assist with the event, and may sign up at katytriathlon.org.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Whataburger's newest location in Katy at 22215 FM 529 features a custom interior mural depicting Texas iconography with Katy splashed across the wall.

Newest Whataburger location in Katy now open on FM 529

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Whataburger is bringing its fresh, customized burgers, Fancy and Spicy Ketchup, and orange-and-white-striped fun to its newest location in Katy effective August 19.

The restaurant at 22215 FM 529 in Katy pays respect to Whataburger's storied history while looking to the future with a forward-thinking design. It features a double drive-thru, spacious dining room, and digital menu boards to serve guests best. A custom interior mural features Texas iconography with Katy splashed across the wall.

The first guests in the drive-thru lane dining room and who ordered online received free Whataburger for a year, with the next 100 customers getting Whataburger swag, the company said in a press release. The



SUSAN ROVEGNO

Whataburger's newest location in Katy is located at 22215 FM 529.

restaurant will also feature some limited-time offers, including the legendary Breakfast Burger, only available during breakfast hours – 11 p.m. to 11 a.m. Operating Partner Joanna Wilson will lead the Whataburger team of 90 local employees.

Eight Katy area businesses among winners of Comcast RISE grant packages

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On August 13 Comcast announced the 100 businesses in the Greater Houston area that will receive comprehensive grant packages through its RISE program, which include business consultation services, educational resources, a \$5,000 monetary grant, creative production, media schedule, and a technology makeover.

Eight of these 100 small businesses are from Katy:

- Mind Neurology Clinic – 18400 Katy Fwy, Suite 420, Houston 77094. www.mindneurology.com. The clinic offers specialized care to adults with brain or nervous system injuries and disorders.
- Experiences By Taylor Brione (Wedding + Event Planning) - 6306 Ballina Meadows Court, Katy 77449 www.bytailorbrione.com. The company creates memorable moments for weddings and special events.
- Datamatix, Inc. (IT Project Management) - 19718 Lindenfield Court,

Katy 77449 www.datamatix.com. The company specializes in data management for technology, energy and healthcare clients.

- Gilbert DLG Insurance Agency - 22503 Katy Fwy, Ste 57, Katy 77450 www.gilbertdlg.com. The company offers a variety of insurance solutions for local residents.
- Katy Premier Primary Care - 633 East Fernhurst Drive, Suite 1203, Katy 77450. www.katypcc.com. The health-care company's unique membership model provides easy access to high quality, affordable, individualized healthcare, right when it is needed most and in a manner that works for the patient.
- Plus8 Construction, 24600 Katy Fwy, Ste 834-2030, Ste 834-2030, Katy 77494 www.plus8designs.com. The home remodeler offers eco-conscious elegance where sustainability meets stunning design.
- TNR Advisors & Management Consultants, 24285 Katy Freeway, Suite 300-54, Katy 77494 www.tnraccounting.com. The company offers accounting and CFO services, tax preparation services, and management consulting services.
- Institute of Business Intelligence Innovation (IBII), 4023 Sutton Shadow Ln., Katy 77494 The international organization provides an academic platform, including academic journals and educational conferences, for researchers and scholars from around the world.

Now in its fourth year, Comcast RISE celebrates having provided 14,000 businesses with more than \$140 million in monetary, marketing, and technology grants to date. Comcast RISE is committed to supporting the growth of all small businesses, while advancing the objectives of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as community investment. The program has evolved from helping businesses survive the pandemic, to helping businesses and their communities thrive with a focus on economic growth.

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Master Gardeners offer free online class about trees

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Between droughts and freezes, Mother Nature has been tough on trees in Fort Bend County. Learn more about "Tree Care Basics" in a free online class Aug. 23 offered by Fort Bend County Master Gardeners.

The class is the sixth and last this year in the Landscape Success series. The 90-minute class will begin at 1 p.m. Registration is required. Register at us06web.zoom.us/j/8sHdWGI81wbcn-slnMMv60B3_1X#/registration. All people who register will receive a link to a recording of the class.

The presenters will be Jim Stepp and Stacey Earley. Stepp of Richmond has been a Master Gar-

dener since 2013. Earley of Wallis has been a Master Gardener since 2023. The class will highlight trees that grow well in Fort Bend County as well as the basics of taking care of them.

Learn more about the Landscape Success series at: fortbend.agrilife.org/landscape-success/. All FBMG fundraisers, courses and events are brought to the community by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Fort Bend County. The Extension Service, along with the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, offer the series to help homeowners create and maintain beautiful home landscapes.

For questions and information, contact: Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034 or brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

Fort Bend Junior Service League, Memorial Hermann partner for Sugar Plum Market



Back row: Reece McIntosh, Marketing Intern; Jacquetta Madgett, Sugar Plum Market Co-Chair; Amy Cassidy, Sugar Plum Market Co-Chair; Michelle Monterroso, Sugar Plum Market Co-Chair; Holly Barker, Sugar Plum Market Co-Chair; Dr. Kristel Poffinbarger, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Matt Kelly, Vice President, Operations. Front row: Sarah Poole, Marketing Manager; Candace Amini, Sugar Plum Market Co-Chair; Malisha Patel, Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer; Kelsea Weatherford, Fort Bend Junior Service League President; Monica Hasty, Sugar Plum Market Liaison; Karina Martinez, Senior Marketing Specialist

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS�) announced Aug. 6 that Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital would be the Title Sponsor for the 2024 Sugar Plum Market. Since it began in 2001, the Sugar Plum Market has raised over \$4 million to benefit nonprofit organizations in Fort Bend County.

The 2024 Sugar Plum Market will kick off with Preview Night on Wednesday, Nov. 6. The market will be held Nov. 7 through Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center, 10505 Cash Road in Stafford.

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Special Pals celebrates 45 years of saving lives



At Special Pals' celebration the shelter's 45th anniversary on Friday at 3830 Greenhouse Road in Houston, Executive Director Becky French introduces Gloria, a kitten who is awaiting her "fur-ever" home.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Special Pals Animal Shelter, a beloved cornerstone of the community, celebrated its 45th anniversary with a special gathering on August 16 at the shelter at 3830 Greenhouse in Houston.

"For nearly half a century, Special Pals has been dedicated to saving the lives of countless pets in need, providing them with loving homes and the care they deserve," said organizers in a press release prior to the event.

The evening included refreshments, fun, memories, and a renewed commitment to saving lives, including:

- Meet and greet with adoptable pets currently looking for their forever homes.
- Special presentations from staff and volunteers who have been part of the shelter's 45-year journey.
- Fundraising activities to help the shelter reach its \$45,000 fundraising goal to continue its mission.

"This anniversary is a celebration of our community's unwavering support and the countless lives that have been saved because of it," said Becky French, Director of Special



Other pets wait hopefully for adoption during the Special Pals anniversary celebration Friday night at the 45-year-old shelter at 3830 Greenhouse Road in Houston.

Pals. "We're excited to welcome everyone to the shelter to share in this special occasion and continue making a difference together."

The shelter is in need of volunteers, foster homes and donations of pet food, in addition to adoption of pets, said French in an interview with the Katy Times.

For more information about Special Pals and the anniversary campaign, please visit www.specialpals.org or call 281-579-7387.

SID MILLER SPEAKS TO KATY CHRISTIAN CHAMBER



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller speaks to the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce at its monthly breakfast on August 16 at Church on the Rock, 433 Barker Cypress in Katy. In addition to describing his personal journey to his political career, beginning as a member of the school board in Stephenville, TX, Miller shared his observations about what he witnessed and experienced in Butler, PA, during the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump at a July 13 campaign rally.

KEVIN SORBO VISITS BIBLE SEMINARY



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Actor and producer Kevin Sorbo (left) meets with The Bible Seminary's archeologists Craig Evans (center) and Scott Stripling (right) prior to the fundraiser gala for the school held Friday, August 16 at Grace Fellowship Church, 2655 S. Mason in Katy. The 65-year-old Sorbo, a pro-life conservative Christian who is best known for his role in the television series "Hercules," spoke on "Winning the Culture Wars," detailing what he believes to be Hollywood's negative influence on American families and institutions. Sorbo said that he had been blacklisted in Hollywood because of his religious beliefs. Over 120 guests attended the Western-themed event.



Crews from homebuilder Taylor Morrison and TV show Extreme Makeover pose outside their bus. The companies are tackling the project of building a new home in under seven days, which will be donated to a deserving area family.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR MORRISON

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition enlists community volunteers to help build a new home for local family

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

HOUSTON — After a successful pilot episode in Hutto, Texas, America's Most Trusted Home Builder, Taylor Morrison (NYSE: TMHC), is returning to film an upcoming episode of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition in the Houston area. Taylor Morrison will serve as the first-ever exclusive homebuilder for the series and build a brand-new home for a local, deserving family.

The home will be located in Mason Woods, a Taylor Morrison community of approximately 300 acres nestled between Katy and Cypress.

Volunteer and donation opportunities are available to the public. To sign-up to volunteer or donate, visit: taylormorrison.com/Extreme-Makeover-Home-Edition-2024. Volunteers must be 18 years or older as of Aug. 17, 2024.

"Philanthropy runs through our veins as an organization, and the Houston team could not be more inspired to bring the community together during the build

process," said Todd Rasmussen, Houston Division President at Taylor Morrison. "Building dream homes is what we do every day at Taylor Morrison, so it's a natural fit for us to do just that for a local family as part of this iconic show."

The Houston episode will be filmed August 17, through Aug. 23, where Taylor Morrison, the homebuilder's local and national trade partners, and 2,000 volunteers will be involved in an around-the-clock operation to build a new home from the ground-up in under seven days.

"Filming the pilot episode with Taylor Morrison as our builder partner made for such a wonderful experience for everyone, from the deserving family we supported, to production, to volunteers, that we knew we wouldn't want to embark on this journey with any other homebuilder," said Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin of The Home Edit.

Upon completion, the deserving families will be welcomed into thoughtfully designed homes built by Taylor Morrison, finished

with organized spaces complimentary of The Home Edit, creating stress-free and memorable move-ins.

The "reveal day" on Friday, August 23 will be open to the public. The public is encouraged to wear closed-toe, comfortable shoes, to bring a water bottle, and to pack lots of sunscreen. For everyone's safety, no children or dogs are permitted.

Taylor Morrison has an existing partnership with The Home Edit, a part of Hello Sunshine, which is a division of Candle Media, that began in 2023 when the homebuilder and home-organization company teamed up to reduce the stress known for accompanying a move, all while adding some fun and function into the process. Curated organization tips centered around a move are featured in the "New Home, New Zones" video series, and extensions of the partnership are underway to bring The Home Edit's organizational products and services directly into Taylor Morrison homes.

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The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day Sept. 2, 2024

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **Sept. 5 edition is Noon on Thursday, Aug. 29.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

Katy Times

(281) 391-3141
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PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Katy ISD named TAEA ‘District of Distinction’

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD Fine Arts Department is leading the way in visual arts after being honored by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) with the 2024 District of Distinction Award for the fourth time, the district said in an August 9 press release. The recognition places Katy ISD among the top 5.5% of visual arts programs in the state, the release said. Out of 1,200 school districts and learning institutions in Texas that were eligible to apply for the prestigious award, 94 met the high standards.

“Katy ISD consistently provides a comprehensive education that includes a visual arts curriculum designed to inspire student creativity and foster connections with their community and beyond,” said Laura Simoneaux, Assistant Director of Fine Arts for Katy ISD. Katy ISD will be honored at the TAEA Administration & Supervision Division meeting as part of the TAEA Conference on November 15, 2024. The district currently has approximately 50,389 students enrolled in art courses served by 150 certified visual arts teachers.

Local high school soccer player creates scholarship fund

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

College just costs too much. That was the conclusion of Alonso Basterra, now a senior at Tompkins High School in Katy, after he did some college tours and realized the high costs of attending college. The local soccer player applied to in-state as well as out-of-state colleges, including US Air Force Academy, Texas A&M, UT Austin, University of Michigan and MIT. But the Cinco Ranch resident – aided by his family -- immediately spurred into action, knowing he could do something to help those who don’t have the means to pay. Basterra partnered with the Bold Foundation to create “Futbol is Life” -- a tax-deductible scholarship fund -- and used the money he had saved from working the previous two summers as a lifeguard at the Cinco Ranch pool and as a referee for a youth soccer league to fund the first scholarship. After that, he reached out to friends and family to secure more than \$4,000.00 to fund three more scholarships. To date, his scholarship fund has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to Texas high-achieving students who share his passion for soccer. The recipients who received the scholarship in late July are:

- Miguel Gonzales, Crockett High School, Crockett
- Rafael Doroteo Trinidad, Cypress Creek High School, Cypress

Creek High School, Cypress

- Avery Herrera, Wichita Falls High School, Wichita Falls
- Victoria Rangel, John Jay High School, San Antonio

He has received more than additional 75 applications and wishes to continue his effort in hopes he can award more scholarships. Any Hispanic high school student in Texas who has at least a 3.3 GPA and plays soccer may apply for this scholarship. Selection criteria includes “ambition, drive and impact,” according to the Bold website. “Our scholarship fund seeks to celebrate and reward exceptional Hispanic students who exhibit outstanding academic performance and actively participate in soccer at the high school level or through club teams,” said a statement from the Basterra family on the Bold Foundation’s website. “Soccer fosters essential character traits such as leadership, accountability, teamwork, and discipline, all of which are integral to personal and professional success. Through our scholarships, we aspire to help equip young men and women with the tools they need to thrive on and off the field. We believe that students can navigate life’s challenges confidently and gracefully by harnessing the lessons learned from soccer, including resilience, problem-solving, and collaboration.” For more information, go to: bold.org/scholarships/futbol-is-life-scholarship/#winners.



ALONSO BASTERRA

HCC champions new military education program initiative

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Houston Community College (HCC) said in an August 8 press release that the local community college system is bolstering its offerings with the introduction of new ROTC and military education programs. Aimed at cultivating future military leaders, the program seeks to instill values of honor, courage and commitment while preparing students for both military service and civilian careers. Under the leadership of Robert Glover, executive director for Military Education Programs, HCC will collaborate with Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC organizations and leverage two external organizations: the U.S. Army’s Strategic Officer Recruitment Detachment and the U.S. Navy Talent Acquisition Group. The goal is to provide opportunities to about 110,000 high school students in the Houston area. By offering the programs, HCC aims to not only prepare students for success in their military careers but also equip them with the skills and qualities necessary for leadership roles in the military or civilian sectors. Credits earned in the program are fully transferrable to four-year universities. “This collaboration will pave the way for tailored academic and career pathways and

catering to the diverse strengths, interests and career aspirations of students,” said Glover, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel. “This presents our prospective students with the opportunity to gain real-world education and experience.” The program prioritizes the development of leadership skills through rigorous training, mentorship and hands-on experiences. The college will establish additional partnerships with relevant organizations to enhance training opportunities while ensuring compliance with U.S. Department of Defense needs.. The initiative comes at a time when more than 5,700 students in the greater Houston region take part in Junior ROTC programs in various school districts, including Katy ISD, Houston ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Stafford MSD, Alief ISD and Spring Branch ISD. “We are so delighted this initiative is underway, and we welcome the chance to play an even larger part in the defense of our nation through programs like ROTC,” said Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D. “In the years ahead, students will learn the leadership skills needed for successful military careers while receiving real-world, affordable education in HCC’s wide range of programs.” Learn more at hccs.edu/military-education.

H-E-B launches 2025 search for top educators in Texas

Nominations for the 2025 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards open until October 7

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Nominations for the 2025 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are now open to all Texas public school professionals in Texas and close on October 7, 2024, the company announced on August 5. Teachers, counselors, principals, early childhood centers, school boards and districts can win cash prizes for their outstanding work. Since 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program, which recognizes educators who go the extra mile to serve their students and their communities, has awarded more than \$14 million in funding to finalists, winners and their schools. All state-certified public school educators currently teaching in Texas are eligible for the awards program, as well as Texas early childhood education centers/schools. “Educators are the backbone of our society, and they deserve recognition for going above and beyond to uplift our communities and shape the next generation of leaders,” Jill Reynolds, H-E-B Public Affairs Manager, said. “By nominating an educator, you are starting a journey that can lead to impactful benefits for not only the school but also

your community.” Anyone can nominate their favorite Texas educator at heblovesteachers.com/nominate/. Eligibility is not dependent on proximity to H-E-B store locations. Nomination categories include:

- Teacher
- School Counselor
- Principal
- Early Childhood Facility
- School Board
- School District

Educators who are nominated will receive an invitation to apply before December 2, 2024. While a nomination is not required to apply for an award, a nomination lets an educator know they are appreciated and encouraged to apply for the awards program. Finalists and winners will be selected by a panel of judges composed of educators, administrators and community leaders throughout the state. Ten winners—six teachers, two counselors and two principals—along with an early childhood facility, public school board and two school districts, will be announced at an awards ceremony in May 2025. Each award recipient’s school will also receive a matching grant. In 2024, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program distributed over \$780,000 in cash and grants to educators and schools. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile each day to serve their students and communities and who inspire others to do the same. To nominate an educator, visit heblovesteachers.com/nominate/.

About the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards

Each year, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program awards cash prizes to honor outstanding public school professionals, and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile every day to serve their students and their communities and who inspire others to do the same. Since the program’s inception in 2002, H-E-B has awarded more than \$14 million in funding to outstanding Texas teachers, counselors, principals, public schools, early childhood centers, school boards and school districts. To learn more, visit [HEBLo-vestTeachers.com](https://heblovesteachers.com).

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 58 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, 3200 Southwest Fwy, STE 2600, Houston, TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	Chris Colihan, Ryan Vogler, Stephen Mount, Carlos Vieira
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Gina Cummings

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.79000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.73000 /\$100 Proposed
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.06000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.59%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$513,377	\$563,552
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$513,377	\$563,552
Tax on average residence homestead	\$4,055.68	\$4,113.93
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$58.25 1.43%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

ROYAL ISD CONVOCAATION



Royal ISD teachers prepare to parade into the district's general meeting during the August 9 convocation held at Royal High School, 34499 Royal Road in Brookshire. The back-to-school event for the 450 district employees began with breakfast and a vendor fair featuring local businesses and healthcare partners, followed by district presentations from 9 until noon.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

KISD invites current, potential mentors to KEYS breakfast

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Partners in Education Department of the Katy Independent School District has announced the date for the annual kick-off of its KEYS (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success) program. The program is set for September 13 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy. All current and former KEYS mentors are invited to attend. The event is free but an RSVP



is required by September 9. To RSVP, go to docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfX-299wHhiAtwrgsEoeXTQtlqRiyFbvoCvmnGbLwNtJ_e6sAw/viewform. The KEYS program is designed

to spark hope and to build relationships one student at a time, organizers said in the invitation. Applications for mentorship may be obtained at publicbiapps.katyisd.org/KEYSMentorApplication/Default.aspx. Katy ISD Partners in Education opens the door to lasting school and community relationships that positively impact students and the staff who lead them. For more information, contact Cydney Wright, KEYS Coordinator at 281-396-2468.

Dematic celebrates STEM scholarship winners

Katy student among 12 students awarded Dematic FIRST® scholarships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Grand Rapids-based supply chain automation and solutions provider Dematic announced on August 8 that a local Katy student, Rafael Calderon, was a 2024 recipient of the company's 2024 Dematic FIRST® scholarship program. Calderon, a 2024 graduate of Cinco Ranch High School, was awarded \$1,000 to put towards an Architecture/Engineering degree at Houston Community College. The program is part of Dematic's continued partnership with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an education nonprofit that prepares science and robotics students for careers in advanced technology. Over the past four years, Dematic has awarded \$60,000 in scholarships, recognizing students dedicated to pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The scholarship program underscores Dematic's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators in the supply chain and logistics industry. "This year's Dematic FIRST scholarship winners are truly exceptional," says Mike Larson, President of Dematic and Executive Board Member of KION Group. "The skills and experiences they've gained through the FIRST program will propel them not only to successful careers in STEM but

also to becoming future leaders. The high caliber of this year's applicants highlights our need for continued investment in STEM education. By empowering these future leaders, we're paving the way for the next generation." Now in its fourth year, the Dematic FIRST scholarship program attracted applications from students across 28 states, Washington, D.C., and Canada. Dematic executives reviewed all applications, selecting honorees based on their academic excellence and commitment to pursuing a future in STEM. The program requires applicants to provide their transcripts, a one-page essay discussing a future where humans and machines interact in the warehouse, and a letter of recommendation. In addition, they must have previously competed in a FIRST Robotics Competition or FIRST Tech Challenge. Dematic is dedicated to supporting FIRST and its mission to engage youth to become skilled professionals, creative thinkers, and well-rounded citizens. Dematic employees actively contribute to FIRST teams by providing mentorship and guidance to students helping to foster their development. Last year, Dematic sponsored 18 FIRST teams and donated \$68,000 to support students as they prepared for competitions and careers in STEM. Since 2008, Dematic has sponsored teams participating in FIRST robotics competitions and invested more than \$310,000 in local teams, events, and student scholarships, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of STEM professionals. To learn more, visit dematic.com.



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Cinco Ranch finishes third at Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Classic

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Cinco Ranch has had a strong start to the season. The reigning Class 6A State Finalists have been learning early in the year. They tested themselves early in the season and that continued this week-end in the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair ISD Volleyball Classic.

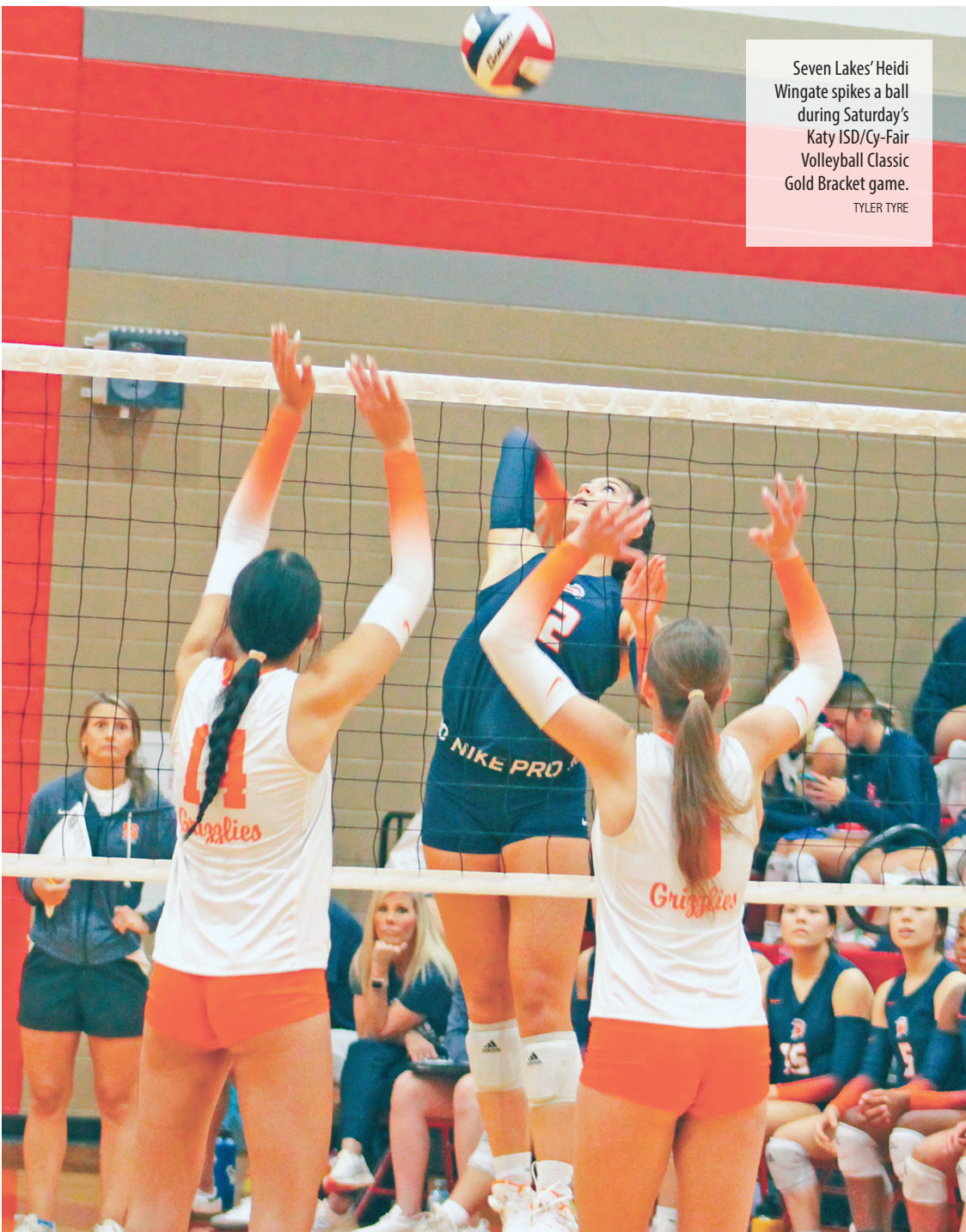
The Cougars had a great start to the tournament, winning their first six games over the course of Thursday and Friday and putting themselves into the gold bracket of the tournament with a chance to win it all. Cinco ultimately did not do that, falling to Cy-Ranch in three sets in the semifinals, but rebounded strongly to beat Seven Lakes in two sets 25-22, 25-16 and claim third place out of the 48 teams that came into the tournament. Cinco Ranch head coach Danielle Wells also earned her 300th career win during the tournament.

"We have a great group of girls this year," said senior

setter Kassie O'Brien. "A lot of them are new, but that doesn't mean that we are not going to play to our fullest or have lower expectations of ourselves. We've just been bringing all of the new girls in and helping them feel welcome and part of this. We need everyone if we are going to accomplish what we want to this year and we've all just been meshing as a unit. I think it's going to be a great season."

This week was a great test for the Cougars as they inch closer to District 19-6 play. The Cougars swept some of the best teams in the state, including Canyon and Bridgeland on Friday and then didn't drop a set against Seven Lakes on Saturday after their loss to Cy-Ranch. There were lots of positives to take from the week-end, but more importantly, the strong competition showed Cinco Ranch the areas that where they need to continue to improve and fix.

See CINCO, page B3



Seven Lakes' Heidi Wingate spikes a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.
TYLER TYRE



Cinco Ranch's Kassie O'Brien sets a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.
TYLER TYRE

Seven Lakes demonstrates growth early in new season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven Lakes wants to build on last year.

The Spartans made a huge run in the playoffs last season, getting all the way to the Class A Region III Title Game and the team has brought that same mindset into this year as they try to continue their success going into this season.

Seven Lakes has started the season in strong fashion. The Spartans were undefeated heading into the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Tournament and kept things going there, only dropping one set in their six games on Thursday and Friday to advance to the gold bracket of the tournament.

The Spartans didn't keep those wins going on Saturday, but still played very well, taking both state finalists last year, Grand Oaks and Cinco Ranch, to the brink but falling and finishing fourth out of 48 teams at one of the toughest non-district tournaments in the entire state.



Seven Lakes' Keira Do digs a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.
TYLER TYRE

"The biggest thing these games and tournaments do is these teams expose our weaknesses and it helps us refine things and know what to go back and work on," said Seven Lakes head coach Amy Cataline. "It's good because it's going to make us play better. The past two days were a lot of fun

and there was a lot of winning, but today is what we are going to gain the most out of today because that's where we will learn from."

Seven Lakes has a young team this year, but has showed promising signs from the start

See VOLLEYBALL, page B3

WEEK OF AUGUST 23

SCORES & SCHEDULES

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday-Saturday

• All Katy ISD teams in tournament play

Tuesday

- Tompkins vs. Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Seven Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
- Morton Ranch vs. Katy, 5:30 p.m.
- Mayde Creek vs. Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
- Paetow vs. Cy-Woods, 5:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

SCRIMMAGE SCHEDULE

Thursday

- Tompkins vs. Fulshear, 5 p.m. at Rhodes Stadium
- Paetow at Cy-Park, 5 p.m.
- Morton Ranch at Cy-Lakes, 5 p.m.
- Cinco Ranch vs. Fulshear, 6 p.m.
- Taylor at Ridge Point, 6 p.m.
- Seven Lakes at Lamar, 6:30 p.m.

Friday

- Katy vs. Klein Collins, 6 p.m. at Legacy Stadium

Tompkins looks sharp in first scrimmage of season



Robert Bernard cuts upfield during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest.
TYLER TYRE

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tompkins' offense came out, nailed every read option, every RPO and every read on its first drive from scrimmage on Thursday against Klein Forest.

It may have been the first scrimmage of the season for the Falcons, but they looked as sharp as ever.

Justin Thierheimer was slinging the ball around, Etoro Bassey was making plays in the receiving game and a three-headed monster at running back was making a huge impact. Overall the Falcons did very well in their first test of the season.

"It's exactly what we needed to do — we've been working every day putting in the new offense and honing things in

See SCRIMMAGE, page B8



Christian Tillman runs into the endzone during a scrimmage between Freeman and Tompkins on Thursday.

TYLER TYRE

Freeman growing early in program's first season

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Thursday was a big step for the Freeman program. For the first time, the school went up against another program, scrimmaging against Tompkins and feeling what the competition will be like against other Katy ISD schools and having fun with it. It was a good day for the Golden Eagles. Players stepped up, it let the coaches know what areas need to be improved on and it was a good experience for a young team growing every day. “Any time you can see really good competition, especially a team like Tompkins it’s a great thing,” said Freeman head coach Eric Robinson. “It’s always a great time to use this as a measuring stick. It’s also big because these kids are freshman and

sophomores — they haven’t experienced playing in a stadium like Legacy so to get them out here, compete and learn more about ourselves was a great experience.” Freeman brought the energy for the game — the freshman team was loud for the top team when they were out against Tompkins and it fueled the junior varsity, who flew around and made plays. The team had a good performance and everyone was positive after, lifting up teammates, coaches talking about how to improve and bringing excitement to the whole process. “You have to bring that energy — when you bring that, it helps so much,” Robinson said. “The guys in the stands were loud for us today and it helped the ones on the field. Every stop we made there was cheering, every big play there was cheering and it just lifts those guys up. Having somebody up there is always fun especially for these kids and I think they just enjoyed playing in front of people.” It was a big first step and there are many more to come for Freeman. The team will scrimmage Tompkins again next week and then go up against Comal Long Creek and Legacy Ranch the first two weeks of the season. The team’s main focus is just on continuing to grow, correcting mistakes and playing together as a team. If they do that and continue to bring the same energy, passion and excitement to every day, it will be a successful year to Robinson and the coaching staff no matter what the results are. “That’s what you have to enjoy with having such a young team — these guys didn’t choose us, they got us as coaches, but we did choose them and they are buying into what we are doing. We are going to do everything we can to relate to them, to build those relationships and establish that trust. It’s been so fun so far and the coaching staff and players have done an amazing job. I just can’t wait to see where it takes us.”



Above: A Freeman player turns upfield during a scrimmage between Freeman and Tompkins on Thursday. Right: Freeman head coach Eric Robinson talks to a player during a scrimmage between Freeman and Tompkins on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



TYLER TYRE

Christopher Beaty throws a pass during a scrimmage between Freeman and Tompkins on Thursday.



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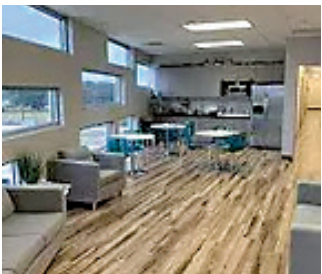
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Seven Lakes' Lily Lott tips a ball over the net during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.

TYLER TYRE



Above: Seven Lakes' Heidi Wingate prepares to spike a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game. Left: Seven Lakes' Gracie Hobin digs a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

of the season. The squad has continued to gain chemistry and get better together day in and day out and there were lots of great things to take from the tournament as well, with Seven Lakes beating strong teams like Cy-Fair and College Park on the way to a very strong run where they ended up in the top four of the tournament.

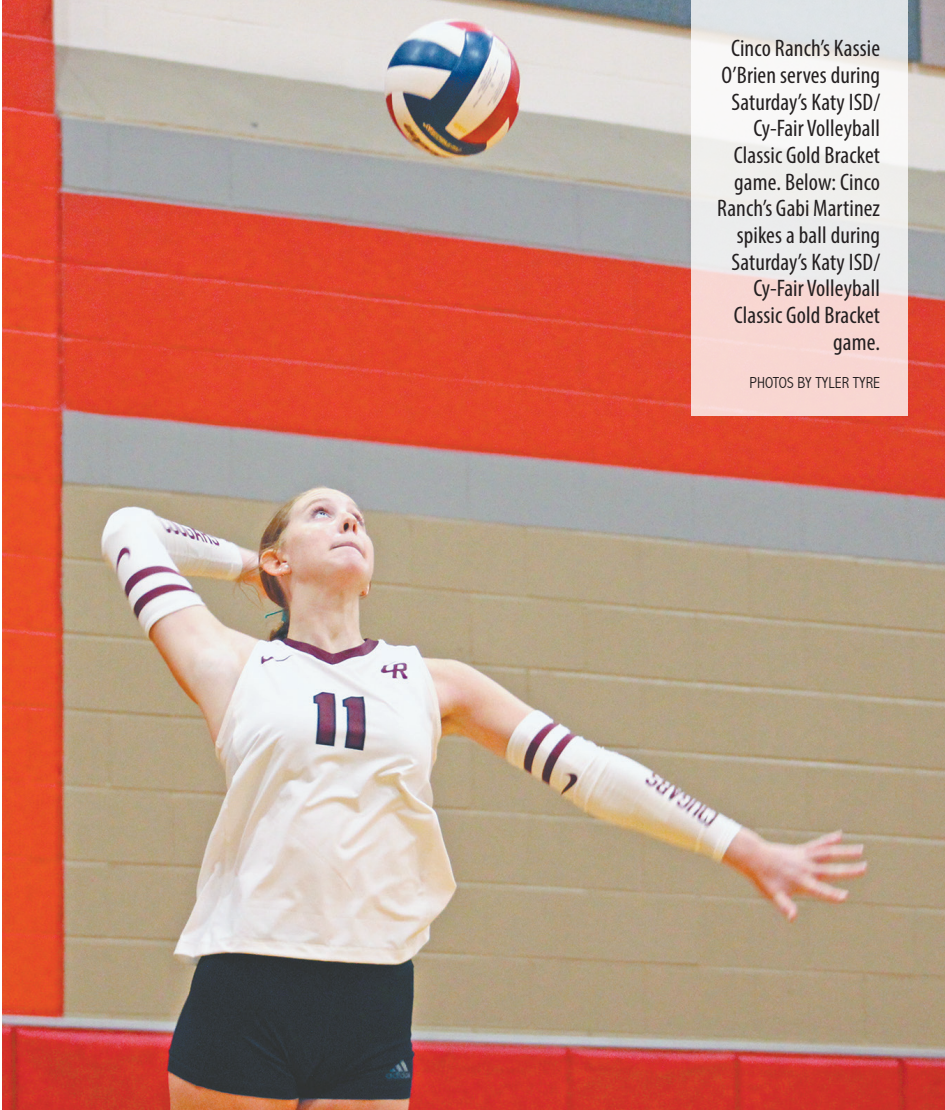
"It's been surprising how well this team has clicked, it's been great," Cataline said. "We haven't had many miscommunications and we haven't had many ball

drops because of it. I feel like the whole team has done a good job of unifying and playing as one group. That's what you want to see early in the season and it's a very positive thing to build from."

Seven Lakes will continue to test themselves before district begins and still have Fulshear, Bridgeland and Deer Park on their schedule. That will all come before they face Cinco Ranch again in just over a week's time to begin district and the Spartans are confident they can continue to grow.

"We have to be confident

on the court — that makes the difference in some of these games against high quality teams," Cataline said. "You could see that in opponents today. They have girls who go out there and just whale on the ball and I don't know if we have that same confidence when we go up. That's something that we can learn from when we play the best though. These girls are gaining that confidence and I'm confident they will get there. That's what is fun about the early part of the season is we have so much room to grow."



Cinco Ranch's Kassie O'Brien serves during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game. Below: Cinco Ranch's Gabi Martinez spikes a ball during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



TYLER TYRE

Cinco Ranch players celebrate after a point during Saturday's Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic Gold Bracket game.



CINCO

from page B1

"When you go against these types of teams, you can't have those little mistakes that you may get away with against a lesser team and that's what we had to learn this week," said Cinco Ranch head coach Danielle Wells. "Those have to get better and we have to tighten up on those things. The girls who have experience know that and they're just trying to get the girls who are new to understand that more. You can't get away with that against good teams and that's what we are going to be up against from here on out."

Cinco sits at 7-3 on the year early on and can carry their positive week into the final week of non-district play. The Cougars close out non-district play against Memorial before going up against Seven Lakes again in just over a week's time to open district. The Cinco players and coaching staff are confident in themselves and their chances of defending their district title, but they know they have to continue to work and improve to make that happen.

"These girls are already improving so much, even in just a week," Wells said. "We've already started connecting better with our hitters and looking so much better. It's just bout getting the girls confidence and used to the player next to them. We just have to keep getting better with knowing our roles, knowing our jobs, not trying to do to much and executing that. But we are headed in the right direction."

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950
PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Katy Pizza Co DBA Katy Pizza Kitchen to be located at 19355 Katy Freeway Unit 500, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77094. Officer of Corporation is Jeremy Shotton - President.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale

RecNation RV and Boat Storage unit contents are being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com from 8/15/24 12 p.m. to 8/30/24 12 p.m. Clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before sale. Unit items sold to highest bidder. All spaces contain household items unless otherwise noted. TXHOU11 - 18103 West Little York Rd, Katy, TX 77449: Reeves, Robert (2) ; Jackson, Donald.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

Sale to be held ONLINE at Storage treasures.com

The facility is 8900 Emnora Lane Houston, Texas 77080. Bidding will open at 10:00 am on August 23, 2024 and end at 12:00 pm on August 29, 2024. Cleanup and removal deposit will be required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale ends. Unit items are sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash. The property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Leoneysi Osaria Saname / Leoneysi Osaria.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2024

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas. The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance By Amending The Zoning Map To Zone Approximately 0.71 Acres Of Land In The James Conner Survey, Abstract 157, In Fort Bend County, From "R-1" Single-Family District To "C-1" Commercial District.

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Friendswood Development Company o.b.o. Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 465, Attention Cynthia Hill, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Wednesday, September 4, 2024, and then publicly opened and read via Teleconference meeting for "Construction of Storm Lift Station for Winward Cove for Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 465, Harris County, Texas."

Call-In Information: Phone Number: (469) 965-2602, Phone Conference ID: 140 348 789#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: **Stormwater pump station to include concrete wet well, 3-10hp vertical turbine pumps, diesel generator, control panels, electrical system, and all weather access road.**

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time, via teleconference. The conference call number is (469) 965-2602. The access code is 513 715 360#.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than Five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search "Winward Cove Storm Lift Station". Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Advertisement Dates: 8/21/2024 & 8/28/2024

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CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2024

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2024

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Amending Ordinance No. 3066 "Katy Court" Planned Development District; Amending Certain Requirements And Restrictions For Development Within The "Katy Court" Planned Development District; Providing A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2024

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6:30 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2024

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Establishing A Special Use Permit That Allows, A Special Use, To-Wit: A Battery Energy Storage Facility In The "M" Industrial District At 27051 Highway Blvd; Providing For An Effective Date; Repealing All Ordinances And Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability And Providing For a Fine Not To Exceed \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of This Ordinance Exists; Applicant And Agent is Sands Green - Vesper Energy.

For breaking news and updates, check out our website at katytimes.com or follow us on

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August 15

Puzzle Answers

1	4	2	8	7	5	6	9	3
6	8	3	1	4	9	5	7	2
7	9	5	3	2	6	1	8	4
4	5	6	7	1	3	9	2	8
2	3	7	5	9	8	4	1	6
9	1	8	2	6	4	7	3	5
8	6	9	4	3	7	2	5	1
3	2	4	9	5	1	8	6	7
5	7	1	6	8	2	3	4	9

E A S E E M B A L M

A P P R E C I A T I O N

R E U N I O N E A S I E R

S E E R S O S P R E Y

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E D D A S S O D A

M C E G O S T S H

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Katy ISD Touchdown Club Preseason Team recipients (left to right) Chad Gasper, Adam Carter, Andrew Marsh and Deyjhon Pettaway pose for a photo during the Touchdown Club of Houston dinner.



Paetow's Deyjhon Pettaway was named to the Touchdown Club of Houston preseason team.



Jordan's Andrew Marsh was named to the Touchdown Club of Houston preseason team.



Jordan's Chad Gasper was named to the Touchdown Club of Houston preseason team.



Katy's Adam Carter was named to the Touchdown Club of Houston preseason team.

Four from Katy ISD named to Touchdown Club of Houston preseason team

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Katy ISD football players were named to the Touchdown Club of Houston High School Preseason Team, as the school district was well represented at the event.

Jordan's Andrew Marsh and Chad Gasper were named to the team on the offensive side, while Katy's Adam Carter earned honors as a punter and Paetow's Deyjhon Pettaway was named to the team on the defensive side.

All four were recognized at the Touchdown Club of Houston dinner on Aug. 14 at the Bayou City Event Center, 9402 Knight Road in Houston.

Marsh comes off a huge junior season where he caught 65 passes for 1,158 yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging over 100 yards per game receiving. Gasper carried the ball 99 times in eight games and had 11 touchdowns on the ground while adding 195 yards and a touchdown receiving. The duo helped Jordan clinch its first ever playoff berth.

Carter was one of the top punters in the state last year, averaging 42.44 yards per punt

as a junior with three punts that went over 60 yards and five punts over 50 yards, earning All-State honors in the process. Carter was a big part of Katy's district title team both as a defensive lineman and a punter.

Pettaway was one of the top defensive backs in the entire state last year and was the leader of a Paetow defense that was one of the strongest in the area. He did not allow a touchdown in coverage last year while registering 80 tackles, four pass breakups and an interception.

The Touchdown Club is the Houston chapter of the National Football Foundation. Founded in 1947 with leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, a non-profit educational organization, organizes programs designed to use the importance of high school football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement for young people.

At right is the full Touchdown Club of Houston Preseason UII Honor Team:

TOUCHDOWN CLUB OF HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL PRESEASON TEAM

OFFENSE	DEFENSE
Quarterbacks Kaleb Bailey, North Shore Austin Carlisle, Ridge Point Aaron DeLeon, Stratford	Defensive Line Floyd Guidry, Spring Chris Johnson, Iowa Colony Smith Orogbo, Hastings Landon Rink, Cy-Fair Chase Sims, Randle Chad Woodfork, Summer Creek
Running Backs Tory Blaylock, Atascocita Chad Gasper, Jordan Wesley Yarbrough, Crosby	Linebackers Kaleb Burns, Cypress Falls Charles Ross, North Shore Javar Thomas, Nimitz Anthony Williams, Shadow Creek
Offensive Line Ryan Fodje, Bridgeland Jonte Newman, Bridgeland Dramodd Odoms, Lamar Tyler Thomas, Dickinson	Defensive Backs Dorian Brew, Conroe Caleb Chester, Marshall Courtland Guillory, Klein Oak Deyjhon Pettaway, Paetow Kade Phillips, Hightower Devin Sanchez, North Shore Cobey Sellers, Shadow Creek
Tight Ends Jordan Andrus, Yates Ty Rupe, Grand Oaks	Athletes Zaylen Cormier, Heights Nick Townsend, Dekaney
Wide Receivers Ja'Kayden Ferguson, Marshall Tanook Hines, Dekaney Andrew Marsh, Jordan JaCorey Watson, Shadow Creek	
Punters/Kickers Adam Carter, Katy Scott Starzyk, The Woodlands	

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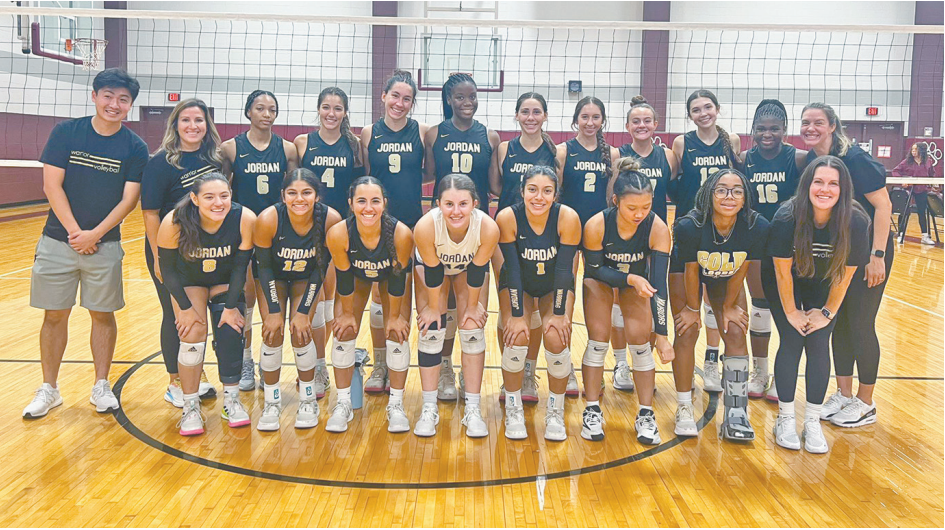
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Seven Lakes with its gold bracket finalist trophy.



Jordan is off to its best start in school history.

Katy ISD volleyball shining in tournament play

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Katy ISD is off to a great start in volleyball this year and it was on full display this week at the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic. The district had a strong weekend at one of the toughest tournaments in the state, with two teams making it to the top bracket on Saturday and even more showing they can compete with some of the best teams in Texas. Cinco Ranch and Seven Lakes led the way for Katy ISD, making the gold bracket and facing off in the third-place matchup for the tournament, with Cinco Ranch coming out on top and finishing third in the tournament while Seven Lakes finished fourth. The Cougars finished with a 7-1 record at the tournament, only losing to tournament winners Cy-Ranch. Seven Lakes finished with a 6-2 record, with the team's only losses coming to last year's state finalists, Grand Oaks and Cinco Ranch. But Cinco and Seven Lakes weren't the only teams to have good tournaments over the weekend. Jordan made the bronze bracket of the tournament and is off to its bet start in school history. The Warriors went 5-3 overall at the tournament and won its third place game of the bronze bracket, also beating Katy during the tournament. The Warriors are out to try and make the playoffs for the second straight season. Katy also had a strong tournament — the Tigers went 5-3 and won their flight on Sat-



Cinco Ranch with its third place trophy from the Katy ISD/Cy-Fair Volleyball Classic.

urday, sweeping Travis and topping Tomball in three sets to close out the tournament on a good note. Katy's only losses came to Cy-Ranch, the team that won the tournament,

and silver bracket third place team Aledo. A young Tompkins team did well in the tournament too. The Falcons went 4-4 on the weekend, winning their first two games

but running into tough competition later on and falling to some very good teams heading into Saturday's action. Tompkins fell in their flight's first matchup against Oak Ridge on Saturday but bounced back, beating Tomball Memorial in three sets to end the tournament on a strong note. Taylor also went 4-4 I in the tournament and finished third in their flight on Saturday. The Mustangs had a tough start to the tournament, losing their first two games, but bounced back to win three of their last four heading into Saturday. Taylor lost to Bellville to start flight play on Saturday, but again bounced back, beating Jersey Village in a sweep to close out the tournament. Mayde Creek won two games in the tournament and finished third in its flight, the Rams earned wins over Klein Cain and Cy-Lakes in the tournament and finished with a 2-6 record. Paetow finished with two wins in the tournament and closed out flight play strong. Paetow didn't earn a win on Thursday or Friday, but won both of their games in flight play Saturday, beating Klein Cain and Morton Ranch to go 2-6 overall. Morton Ranch also struggled and went winless its first two days, but bounced back with a win over Cy-Park in its first game of flight play on Saturday before losing to Paetow to close out the tournament, ending with a 1-7 record. Cy-Ranch won the tournament, just narrowly beating Cinco Ranch in its semifinal game before beating Grand Oaks in the final.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 220 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, Texas 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Table with 2 columns: FOR the proposal, AGAINST the proposal, PRESENT and not voting, ABSENT. Values include C. LeBouf, R. Derby, B. Dahl, B. Colliander & S. Krejci, (none), (none), (none).

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Table with 3 columns: Last Year, This Year. Rows include Total tax rate, Difference in rates, Percentage increase/decrease, Average appraised residence, General homestead exemptions, Average residence homestead, Tax on average residence homestead, Annual increase/decrease in taxes.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Ste. 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Table with 2 columns: FOR the proposal, AGAINST the proposal, PRESENT and not voting, ABSENT. Values include P. Battistini, S. Handal, T. Eynon, S. Haleem & G. Gupta, (none), (none), (none).

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Table with 3 columns: Last Year, This Year. Rows include Total tax rate, Difference in rates, Percentage increase/decrease, Average appraised residence, General homestead exemptions, Average residence homestead, Tax on average residence homestead, Annual increase/decrease in taxes.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.



Houston quarterback Donovan Smith (1) passes the ball during a Big 12 Conference football game between the Houston Cougars and the Texas Longhorns on October 21, 2023 in Houston. Texas won, 31-24.

UH’s Donovan Smith named to Manning Award Watch List

STAFF REPORT

University of Houston senior Donovan Smith has been recognized among college football's top quarterbacks entering the 2024 season with his inclusion on the Manning Award Preseason Watch List, presented by the Allstate Sugar Bowl, announced Thursday.

This season’s preseason list recognized 29 quarterbacks. The winner will again be selected by a voting panel, which includes national media and each of the Mannings, after the postseason.

Smith, a Las Vegas native, has been among the nation’s elite dual-threat

quarterbacks during his career. Smith is one of six active Power 4 quarterbacks with 15+ rush touchdowns and 40+ passing touchdowns since 2021. His six games with a 75% completion rate (min. 15 attempts) since 2021 rank fifth nationally among active Power 4 QBs and his 15 deep-pass TDs (20+ yards) since 2021 rank second among current Big 12 Conference signal callers.

In 2023, Smith completed 256 of 397 passes for 2,801 yards and 22 touchdowns. His 64.5 completion % ranked third in the Big 12. In 2023, Smith became one of four UH quarterbacks (Case Keenum, Clayton Tune and Greg Ward

Jr.) in last 20 years with 250+ completions, 2,500+ passing yards, 20+ passing touchdowns and 5+ rushing scores in a single season.

The Manning Award was created by the Allstate Sugar Bowl in honor of the college football accomplishments of Archie, Peyton and Eli Manning. It is the only quarterback award that includes the candidates’ postseason performances in its balloting.

The Big 12 and SEC led the way with six selections, followed by the ACC with five. In its first 20 years, the Manning Award has recognized the top names in college football.

Rice’s Banks named to Lombardi Award Watch List

STAFF REPORT

Rice tackle Brant Banks is one of 90 of the nation's top linemen and linebackers who have been named to the initial watch list for the 51st Lombardi Award which was released by the Lombardi Award Committee on Thursday.

Banks is entering his second season as a starter on the Rice offensive line, having started all 13 games in 2022 at guard before moving to right tackle this season. He led the offensive line with 845 offensive snaps last year and comes into this season as a preseason second-team All-AAC selection by both Athlon Sports and Phil Steele.

He prepped at Houston's Westbury Christian before signing with Nebraska in 2019. He played in 26 games in his career with the Huskers, including all 12 in 2022 before coming to Rice as a grad transfer.

The Lombardi Award™ was established in 1970, in memory of legendary coach Vince Lombardi. It is presented to outstanding linemen who best epitomize his values of leadership, courage, performance, and discipline on and off the field. Furthermore, the watchlist includes players who are consistently showing the values of strength, agility, and football acumen in their respective positions.

The 2024 award dinner will take place on December 11, 2024, and net proceeds from gala sponsorship and table sales are dedicated to supporting cancer research and families and patients battling cancer.



Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination for SY 24-25

Royal ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agricultural Science, Arts & Audio/Visual Media Technology, Business Management, Information Technology, Cosmetology and Human Services, Health Science, Manufacturing, Transportation, Education and Training, Engineering Foundations, and Marine Corps JROTC. Admission to these programs is based on student interest and age appropriateness.

It is the policy of Royal ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Royal ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Royal ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator Damion Hopkins at dhopkins@royal-isd.net (281-934-2248), and/or the Section 504 Coordinator Tonya Woods at twoods@royal-isd.net (281-934-1826). Royal ISD 3714 FM 359 PO Box 489 Pattison, TX 77466.

Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

Royal ISD ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Agricultural Science, Arts & Audio/Visual Media Technology, Business Management, Information Technology, Cosmetology and Human Services, Health Science, Manufacturing, Transportation, Education and Training, Engineering Foundations, and Marine Corps JROTC. La admisión a estos programas se basa en interés del estudiante y adecuación a la edad.

Es norma de Royal ISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Royal ISD no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Royal ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX Damion Hopkins en (dhopkins@royal-isd.net), (281-934-2248), y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 Tonya Woods en (twoods@royal-isd.net), (281-934-1826). Royal ISD 3714 FM 359 PO Box 489 Pattison, TX 77466

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.099562 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 48**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.099562 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.095716 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.099562 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.098732 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, AT 5:00 PM AT 21201 MORTON ROAD, KATY, TX 77449.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 48 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, AT 5:00 PM, FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No.48 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

Members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal:	Scott Strait Pattie Creel Don Pannell Sam Henderson Mike Fleming
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.099562	Decrease of -0.000438 per \$100, or -0.44%
Average homestead taxable value	\$323,494	\$345,609	Increase of 22,115, or 6.84%
Tax on average homestead	\$323.49	\$344.10	Increase of 20.61, or 6.37%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$18,664,222	\$19,622,395	Increase of 958,173, or 5.13%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact Coveler & Peeler, district counsel for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 at 713-984-8222 or adkins@coveler.com, or visit www.hcesd48.org for more information.



A Tompkins player makes a catch during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest.

SCRIMMAGE
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practice and film so to come out here and put a good performance together was great,” said senior quarterback Justin Thierheimer. “There’s still some things we have to work on and we are going to keep perfecting it, but this was great. We just have to keep getting ready for that first game.”

Tompkins got some good experience from the scrimmage on both sides. The second-string offense grew more comfortable the further into the scrimmage it got and the defense refined its coverages and communications. While it wasn’t perfect by any means, both sides continued to grow and learn as we get closer to the season.

“I really liked how focused our defense was — we really had the communication that we needed and got lined up correct,” said Tompkins head coach Todd McVey. “We had one snafu on a communication but you have to understand that not everything will be perfect the first time out and they practice too — they’re going to make plays. It’s about how you respond after that and I thought we did a good job of doing that. The kids learned from it and got better.”

One of the biggest bright spots from the scrimmage was the work that three of Tompkins running backs did. Ronnie Quinn, Robert Bernard and Phoenix Smith all made big plays and continue to look like a trio that could be counted on this season.

“It keeps them all hungry and having that healthy competition while keeping them healthy as well is great,” McVey said. “The guys are working and pushing each other and they all ran well today. Having fresh bodies is huge — you can never have too much depth at a position so it’s good to see all three of them stepping up.”

Tompkins will have another scrimmage this week before they enter the season, and they hope to build on things and continue to grow. The goal is to get one percent better every day and they continue to hold themselves to that standard.

“Everyone just has to keep doing their job,” Thierheimer said. “We have a game plan every week and everyone has to do certain things. As long as we stick to that and keep working, we are going to have a good year. We just have to hold each other accountable and keep doing it all season.”



Justin Thierheimer keeps the ball on an RPO during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest.



Justin Thierheimer throws a pass during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest.



Above: Justin Thierheimer looks for a receiver during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest. Below: Robert Bernard looks for an opening during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest. Top right: Etoro Bassey cuts upfield during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest. Bottom right: Justin Thierheimer keeps the ball on an RPO during Thursday's scrimmage between Tompkins and Klein Forest.

PHOTOS BY TYLER TYRE



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with RSVP – scan the QR code below!

Katy

COMMUNITY

Expo

AUGUST 24-25

KATY MERRELL CENTER

6301 Stadium Lane, Katy TX 77494

 **SATURDAY** 10:00AM to 6:00PM

SUNDAY 11:00AM to 4:00PM



SCAN ME FOR EVENT INFO AND TO RSVP



Join your Katy area neighbors for an interactive, festive, and fun "walk in the park" focused on putting the UNITY in Community!

Connect

Meet your neighbors & find your people!
(Find local sports leagues, clubs, charities, groups)

Find

Local treasures, vendors, and your "go-to" for everything Katy! Kids club & Lego Show upstairs!

Give

Collecting canned food items, coats, and personal care items to help local families in need!

Get

Fill your complimentary tote with exclusive deals, freebies, prizes, and fall market samples!

